

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A retractable fishing net, comprising:

a handle having a grip end and a net end;

a retraction mechanism slidably mounted on said handle, said retraction mechanism being movable between said grip end and said net end;

a flexible net support band having a first band end and a second band end, said first band end and said second band end each being mounted to said retraction mechanism external internal to said handle, said net support band thereby having a hoop shape, said net support band being mounted relative to said handle and said retraction mechanism in a manner so as to provide said net support band with a spring quality, a portion of said net support band being exterior to said handle, said spring quality of said net support band acting to bias said retraction mechanism toward said net end of said handle; and

a netting mounted on said net support band, said net end having a plurality of openings including a net opening and at least one band opening, said net opening and said at least one band opening separate from each other, said netting connected to said retraction mechanism through said net opening and said net support band passing through said at least one band opening.

2. (original) The retractable net of claim 1, wherein said handle has a releasable retention mechanism located proximate said grip end, said releasable retention mechanism configured for retaining said retraction mechanism in a position proximate said grip end.

3. (original) The retractable net of claim 2, wherein said releasable retention mechanism is a spring-biased button, said retraction mechanism having a receiver hole therein for receiving said spring-biased button.

4. (original) The retractable net of claim 1, wherein retraction mechanism includes a first mounting mechanism and a second mounting mechanism, said first band end being pivotally

not operable with only one opening

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Fig. 8

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mounted with respect to said first mounting mechanism, said second band end being pivotally mounted with respect to said second mounting mechanism.

5 5. (original) The retractable net of claim 1, wherein said handle further includes a T bar mounted rigidly thereto at said net end thereof, said T bar being substantially orthogonal to said handle, said T bar having a first bar end and a second bar end, said first bar end having a first member extending therefrom, said first member defining a first receiver, said second bar end having a second member extending therefrom, said second member defining a second receiver.

5 6. (original) The retractable net of claim 5, wherein said first band end extends beyond said first receiver, said second band end extending beyond said second receiver, said first member of said first receiver and said second member of said second receiver each contacting and biasing against said net support band, said first member of said first receiver and said second member of said second receiver each applying a biasing force against said net support band.

5 7. (original) The retractable net of claim 6, wherein said handle has a handle axis, each biasing force having a first force component directed perpendicularly inward toward said handle axis and a second force component directed parallel to said handle axis and extending in a direction from said grip end toward said net end, said second force component of each biasing force thereby tending to bias said retraction mechanism toward said net end.

8. (original) The retractable net of claim 5, wherein said first member of said first receiver and said second member of said second receiver each are rollers.

9. (original) The retractable net of claim 1, wherein said net support band is configured to be both resilient and flexible.

10. (original) The retractable net of claim 9, wherein said net support band is composed of at least one of spring steel, aluminum, stainless steel, fiberglass and plastic.

11. (original) The retractable net of claim 1, wherein said handle is hollow, said handle

having a handle interior and a slot therein, said slot extending from proximate said net end to proximate said grip end of said handle, said handle further having a pair of band openings therein, said band openings being positioned proximate said net end on opposing sides of said handle, each said band opening receiving one of said first band end and said second band end therethrough, said retraction mechanism including an anchor pin, said anchor pin extending through said slot and into said handle interior, said first band end and said second band end each being coupled to said anchor pin.

12. (original) The retractable net of claim 11, further comprising a hinge coupled to said anchor pin, said first band end and said second band end each being coupled to said hinge.

13. (original) The retractable net of claim 11, further comprising a net hook coupled to said anchor pin, said net hook extending toward said net end of said handle, said handle including a net end opening capable of receiving said netting thereinto.

14. (currently amended) A retractable fishing net, comprising:

a handle having a grip end and a net end, said net end having a T bar mounted rigidly thereto, said T bar being substantially orthogonal to said handle, said T bar having a first bar end and a second bar end, a first member extending from said first bar end, said first member defining a first receiver, a second member extending from said second bar end, said second member defining a second receiver;

a retraction mechanism slidably mounted on said handle, said retraction mechanism being movable between said grip end and said net end;

a flexible net support band having a first band end and a second band end, said first band end extending beyond said first receiver and mounted to said retraction mechanism ~~external~~ internal to said handle, said second band end extending beyond said second receiver and mounted to said retraction mechanism, said net support band thereby having a hoop shape, said net support

band biasing against each of said first member of said first receiver and said second member of said second receiver; and

15 a netting mounted on said net support band, said net end having a plurality of openings including a net opening and at least one band opening, said net opening and said at least one band opening separate from each other, said netting connected to said retraction mechanism through said net opening and said net support band passing through said at least one band opening.

20 15. (original) The retractable net of claim 14, wherein said handle has a releasable retention mechanism located proximate said grip end, said releasable retention mechanism configured for retaining said retraction mechanism in a position proximate said grip end.

16. (original) The retractable net of claim 15, wherein said releasable retention mechanism is a spring-biased button, said retraction mechanism having a receiver hole therein for receiving said spring-biased button.

17. (original) The retractable net of claim 14, wherein said first member of said first receiver and said second member of said second receiver each are rollers.

18. (original) The retractable net of claim 14, wherein said net support band is configured to be both resilient and flexible.

19. (currently amended) A method of deploying a retractable fishing net, comprising:
providing a handle having a grip end and a net end, said handle having a releasable retention mechanism located proximate said grip end;

providing a retraction mechanism slidably mounted on said handle, said retraction mechanism being movable between said grip end and said net end,

providing a flexible net support band having a first band end and a second band end, said first band end and said second band end each being mounted to said retraction mechanism internal ~~external~~ to said handle, said net support band thereby having a hoop shape, said net support band

being mounted relative to said handle and said retraction mechanism in a manner so as to provide said net support band with a spring quality, said spring quality of said net support band acting to bias said retraction mechanism toward said net end of said handle;

providing a netting upon said net support band, said net end having a plurality of openings including a net opening and at least one band opening, said net opening and said at least one band opening separate from each other, said netting connected to said retraction mechanism through said net opening and said net support band passing through said at least one band opening;

retaining said retraction mechanism in a position proximate said grip end using said retention mechanism; and

releasing said retention mechanism to permit said spring quality to bias and thereby move said retraction mechanism toward said net end of said handle, thereby moving said net support band through said at least one band opening and said netting through said net opening.

20. (previously amended) The retractable net of claim 14, wherein retraction mechanism includes a first mounting mechanism and a second mounting mechanism, said first band end being pivotally mounted with respect to said first mounting mechanism, said second band end being pivotally mounted with respect to said second mounting mechanism.